

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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AGAWAM
HOCKEY 14

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Looking for a New Foundation

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM — Despite the fact that the town did not receive an anticipated \$500,000 in grant funding for Phase II of the School Street Park project, officials here are optimistic that the project will still move forward.

“Any time you apply for a grant, it’s 50/50,” said Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen, who last week announced that the application for the \$500,000 Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant was not successful. “Unfortunately, last time [we applied], we did receive it; this time we did not.”

Cohen said the grant was “very competitive” and that not receiving it was “disappointing.”

Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks, who submitted the application in July, said a total of 50 applications were received and that only 17 were funded.

“That’s about one in three,” he said, adding, “I still think we have a very worthwhile project that we’re going to follow through with.”

“The park is still on track for development,” Cohen added.

In the meantime, two corresponding resolutions that appeared under new business on the city council’s Jan. 17 meeting, will move on to the agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 6. City Councilor George Bitzas, a member of the city council recreation subcommittee, said he would also arrange a meeting with Sparks, the town attorney, the planning department and design company. “We’ll sit down and formulate a new plan ... to move forward with it.”

Plans to develop the 50-acre School Street Park began around the time when Cohen took office in 2000. The town officially purchased the land from the Commonwealth in

Please see PARC, page 7

Pick a book, any book...



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

Granger Elementary School recently held its book fair, an event that, in addition to a vast array of books for sale, included Clifford the Big Red Dog. Here, Christian Rua, 8, holds his book of choice: National Geographic’s “Weird But True Facts.”

SC appoints Sapelli as new superintendent

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

What a difference a year makes. Last January, William Sapelli was contemplating his retirement. This January, he’s Agawam’s new school superintendent.

The school committee voted unanimously to appoint Sapelli as permanent superintendent for a three-year term at a special Dec. 19 meeting. He was named interim superintendent this summer when former school superintendent Mary Czajkowski left to become head of the Barnstable’s school system.

When Czajkowski announced last March that she would be leaving, Sapelli — for budget reasons — had already submitted a letter indicating his intent to retire in June 2012. Her unexpected departure changed Sapelli’s plan to retire from a more than three-decade career as an Agawam educator, which includes assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction from 2002 to 2011.

He decided to postpone his retirement after talking with school committee members.

“They explained that with my experience in the system, interim superintendent would be an appropriate fit for me, as well as a way for both of us to see how I did as a superintendent,” said Sapelli, who took over the interim position in August.

They also agreed that the committee would either hire him as superintendent or search for other candidates to replace Czajkowski by this January, so the new superintendent could be in place when the 2012-13 school year began.



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

“We have a great staff that is committed to education as well as supportive parents and school committee members. Working together, we can make good things happen.”

William Sapelli, superintendent
Agawam Public Schools

“I also felt that as interim superintendent I could add stability to a district that recently had changes in several key administrative positions,” added Sapelli, who began his career as a substitute teacher before being hired in 1978 to teach eighth-grade social studies and science at the junior high school.

A lifelong town resident and a graduate of its schools, Sapelli, 57, said pride in his community and knowledge of Agawam’s schools also were factors.

“With a variety of experiences during my 34 years here — from kindergarten to grade 12, plus central administration — I felt I had a lot I could give back to the district and to the town.”

A wealth of education experience

Sapelli, who received a Bachelor of Science degree in business and economics from St. Anselm’s College in New Hampshire, minored in education.

“I considered a business career, but found I really enjoyed working with kids when I started substitute teaching,” he said.

His rise through various administrative positions began in 1985 when he was appointed assistant principal at the Agawam Middle School (now the Roberta G. Doering School). In 1990, he was promoted to principal at Robinson Park School. Sapelli held that position for 12 years when Czajkowski recruited him as assistant superintendent.

School committee Vice Chair Anthony Bonavita said after the committee evaluated Sapelli’s performance as interim superintendent, they were “very comfortable” in appointing him to a longer term as superintendent.

“We’ve watched and worked with Bill throughout his years in Agawam. He has the leadership qualifications and experience for

Please see SAPELLI, page 9

Towns don’t share in state’s good employment news

By Christopher Faille
Turley Publications Correspondent

REGION — Massachusetts is reporting good news on unemployment for the month of December 2011 — news in which, unfortunately, three local towns do not share.

The total rate of unemployment in Massachusetts fell 0.2 percent from November to December 2011, bringing it to 6.8 percent, the lowest rate since December 2008. The statewide improvement came about largely through a revival of the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, which employed 2,300 more people in December than it had in November, and 7,800 more than it had a year before.

Agawam

A town-by-town breakdown of the numbers is available, through the website of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), and it indicates that the local story is quite different from the statewide story. Agawam’s December rate of unemployment rose from November’s 5.8 percent to 6.2 percent. Agawam has a labor force of 15,608, of whom 966 were unemployed last month.

Until then, the Agawam number had been headed in the right direction with some consistency through 2011. It was at 9.3 percent in January 2011, down to 7.3 by June. It reached 5.8 percent

Please see TOWNS, page 7

Another winning performance



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Robert Johnston, (front row, left), an eighth-grade student at Agawam Junior High School, repeated his winning performance in this year's National Geographic Geography Bee. The geography bee was a school-wide competition that culminated in a final round contest of the top 10 students in the school vying for the opportunity to advance to the next level of competition. Robert was also the school champion last year as a seventh-grader and recently completed the next stage in the competition. He is awaiting results to advance to the regional level of competition. The final two levels will be the state competition with the winner advancing to the national geography bee later this spring.



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WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

Anyone in need of last minute parts to help battle the snow may have stumbled on this welcoming gent somewhere in Agawam. Do you know where it is?



Last week's photo: The Galleria Shops on North Westfield Street. Correctly guessing the answer were Gloria King and Rosemary Sandlin, both of Feeding Hills.

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ZBA permit request continued to Feb. 13

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has continued a special permit modification for the city of Springfield-owned Bondi's Island Monday night for the waste and sewage management company to be able to open a metal-extracting operation later this year.

The modification for the new extracting facility was continued after Chairman Doreen Prouty decided she was not prepared to vote on the matter and requested a continuance of the proceeding.

The ZBA will plan to pick up the discussion at their next regular meeting, scheduled for Feb. 13 with a special 6 p.m. start time, due to other matters on the agenda.

The unique operation will be semi-portable and there is a chance the site of the operation will change when work is done to the landfill located on the property, Planning and Community Development Director Deborah Dachos said this week.

"The planning board added a provision in the special permit that stipulated that they have to come back before the board for approval to change the location of the operation," Dachos said.

Covanta, LLC, which plans to operate the extraction facility, hopes to open in July.

The facility will be a metal recycling operation and will process and extract an estimated

4,000 tons of ferrous metal annually and estimated 1,250 tons of non-ferrous metal annually, according to the proposal submitted by Covanta.

Dachos said the facility will be comprised of two portable structures through an automated system of magnets.

Once the metals are processed by the facility, it would be hauled away to be recycled and would process ash residue from the Springfield facility, owned by Covanta, a Wallingford, Conn.-based energy-from-waste facility, and a Pittsfield Resource Recovery Facility. The materials from each facility would be separate according to the plans.

The plans show the operation will be located on the southwest corner of cell 2 at the landfill. But Dachos said future work at the landfill, which will shield the operation from view, may necessitate it be moved at a later time. That chance prompted the planning board to add the stipulation for approval if it needs to be moved.

"The need for screening the facility can be visited at that time," the planning board's Jan. 5 decision states.

Another stipulation from the planning board is that the new operation will not add to the noise already coming from the facility. According to Covanta's plans, the metal extraction will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and will also run on Saturday.

The plan was not subject to approval from the conservation commission because the fa-

cility did not come within the 100-foot buffer zone to wetlands.

An analysis of the plan also stated that it will not cause health or safety issues in the residential neighborhoods located nearby.

Covanta will also provide mitigation services to the M Street Extension, including

periodic street sweeping.

Board of Appeals approval is necessary because the facility falls within the Industrial A Zone. The facility must also gain approval from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). All changes to property must go through the appeals board.

Upcoming events at Agawam Public Library

The Agawam Public Library has announced the following upcoming events for February.

"AuthorTalk" with photographer Larry Shortell will be held Monday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. Shortell, author, photographer, world traveler and Connecticut teacher, will visit the library on the heels of his photography exhibit to share his book, "Summers Off: The Worldwide Adventures of a Schoolteacher." Brown-bagging his lunches and foregoing gourmet coffee for homebrewed has allowed Shortell to visit all 50 states, over 80 nations and every continent – all on a teacher's salary. He uses his travel experiences in the classroom to get his students excited about places they may want to visit, as he can usually provide them with firsthand information. For more information, visit [\[rystravels.blogspot.com\]\(http://rystravels.blogspot.com\). Included in this event will be a short PowerPoint presentation, a question and answer period and light refreshments.](http://junglear-</p>
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A "Social Media Propaganda Poster Event With Aaron Wood" will be presented Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. Local artist Aaron Wood joined the social network Google+. After seeing dislike for other sites, he was inspired to develop a series of social media propaganda images based off the themes of WWII propaganda posters. Since then, he's created more than 20 posters with themes including Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and iTunes. Wood will offer a presentation on his artwork and the inspiration for creating the posters.

To register for either of the above events, call 789-1550 ext. 109 or go online at www.agawamlibrary.org.



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Opinion

Where's Old Man Winter?

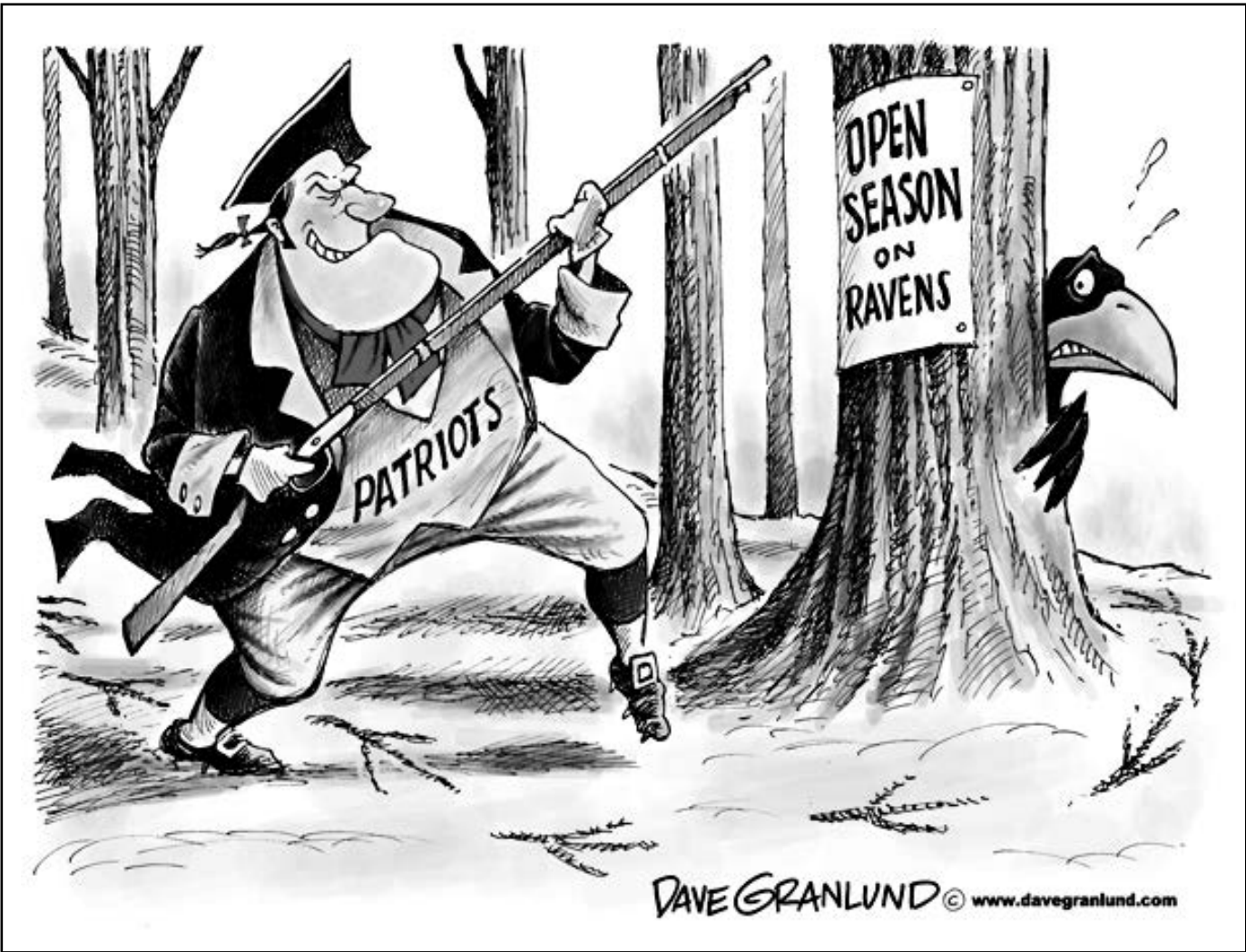
So we've had thus far – minus the October nor'easter that doesn't really count toward winter snowfall totals – only about 8-10 inches of snow this season. Winter is half over. After the arctic tundra most of us survived last winter (with 82.5 inches of snow pack locally by March 5,) many aren't complaining.

We see bulletin signs rejoicing about the non-arrival of a real New England winter. Folks are wearing T-shirts on the warmer days, scoffing at Old Man Winter. Ice fishermen are playing a dangerous game on the thin ice, for sure. And skiers are driving three hours north to ride down fake snow and drive back home to fall.

According to Accuweather's long-range forecast, no significant snowstorms are in sight for southern New England for at least the next 10 days. February is a short month. We hope they're wrong, but more cold rain is predicted this week and next; the ground hog's alarm clock is ticking closer to count down; and we heard what we thought were spring bird songs during Tuesday's near-record beach-like day.

Sleds are abandoned on barren brown grass hills, carrots and coal sit helplessly beneath ice strewn snowman carcasses, and shovels stand at rest in driveways like some dormant Christmas tree ornament in our attics. Winter is nowhere to be found. Snow appears one day and melts magically overnight, like the water never even condensed into tiny droplets with vapor in our atmosphere at all.

This very mild winter happened at least once before to us. Maybe twice. Back in the winter of 1620 on Cape Cod, the Pilgrims experienced one of the mildest winters on record. Even so, half of those who made land-fall died from a disease-strewn spring partially due to the lack of snow pack. "A calm winter, such as was never seen here since,"



wrote Thomas Dudley of Massachusetts Bay in 1630. Did you know that significant snow pack in late winter helps prevent the onslaught of black flies, mosquitoes, mice, ticks and disease in their formative early spring stages? You do now. It's also much prettier to look at than dead, brown grass.

Ancient history aside, according to this editor's very unofficial snow tracking diary, the winter of 2007 started out really slow with no snow until a scant 2 inches hit us

here in the Pioneer Valley on Jan. 24, 2007. We ended that season with about 34 inches in early March. Winter of 2008 brought us closer to 80 inches of snow. So there is some hope for snow lovers in those records. Or perhaps this is the winter of one big, giant snowstorm - like the Blizzard of '78.

Still, we remember this time last year when our area was buried beneath more than a foot of snowfall for each storm system that roared through. Back then, too

much of a good thing proved problematic: not only were plow drivers exhausted, they had nowhere to put the snow!

So where's Old Man Winter now, you ask? Perhaps he has heard enough of the complaints about too much snow and moved farther north. We hear Alaska is having one of its most severe winters in history this season.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...in moderation.

Cakes for two



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I have always loved to cook, basically because I love to eat. As a senior in high school, my home economics teacher thought I should pursue a career in the food field, but not wanting to spend four more years in school, I opted to become a dental hygienist instead. That required only a two-year degree rather than a four year. Well, as it turned out, she was right. Having won a top award in high school in home economics — along with several prize ribbons in church bakeoffs — I should have listened.

Since I had no children, I normally only needed to cook for two and have spent the past 10 years perfecting all types of quick and easy recipes for only two people. Downsizing recipes intended for four to eight people can be a challenge when you only have one or two people in your household. It is my hope that I can help you conquer this challenge with my quick and easy tips and two-serving recipes.

A few years after we were married, I had decided to make a carrot cake for my husband. But a 9-inch X 13-inch cake is just too much for the two of us. So I measured out a box of yellow cake mix and my high school math and chemistry came to life as I added carrots, spices, and other ingredients to a portion of the cake mix. I found that a 6-inch springform pan was the perfect size for baking a cake for just the two of us.

The success of this carrot cake led me to believe that I could make many different flavors of cakes for two. This formula allowed me to create over 23 cake recipes. While developing these cake recipes, I began to record all of my favorite recipes for two. The result is my cookbook: Ann's Table for Two.

Carrot cake - 350° oven

Cream Cheese Frosting (recipe below)
1/2 C. mashed, cooked carrots (about 4 oz.)
1/4 C. canola oil
2 T. water
1 egg
1 C. yellow cake mix
1/4 C. biscuit/baking mix
1 T. vanilla instant pudding/pie filling mix
1 T. dark brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 tsp. nutmeg

ANN'S TABLE
FOR TWO
ANN MACEY

Prepare frosting and allow to set in refrigerator until ready to use. In a large bowl, blend the carrots, oil, water, and egg with a wire whisk. Add remaining ingredients and whisk again until combined (60-70 strokes). Pour into a 6" springform pan that has been sprayed with nonstick cooking spray. Bake in a 350° oven for 35-40 minutes, or until cake is done. Remove cake from pan immediately and allow to cool completely on a wire rack (about 1 hour). Transfer cake to a serving plate and spread frosting on top and sides of cake. Yield: 4-5 servings. NOTES: You may substitute the carrots with a 4 oz. jar of strained baby food carrots. • If desired, you may add either 1/3 C. of raisins or chopped walnuts to the cake batter and/or garnish the top with walnuts.

Cream cheese frosting

3 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 tsp. powdered sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 1/4 C. whipped topping

In a medium bowl; combine cream cheese, powdered sugar, and extract with an electric mixer until smooth. Add whipped topping and beat again until well blended. Refrigerate until ready to frost cake. Yield: Frosts one 6" cake. VARIATION: Half of a 16 oz. can of vanilla frosting plus 2 oz. of softened or whipped cream cheese. Beat together until smooth.

Ann Macey is the author of "Ann's Table for Two: Quick and Easy Two Serving Recipes" and a resident of Agawam. Ann welcomes your questions and comments: Ann@AnnsTableForTwo.com.

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Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

A day in a life: a journalist's dream

I love my job.

Yes, it's true, I do. I may let loose with the occasional gripe about the stress associated with being a newspaper editor now and then (like, say, on deadline), but for the most part, I have fun.

The best thing about being a journalist is that I'm often granted access to things that people don't ordinarily get to see (In this respect, my press badge is my best friend). If a road is closed due to a serious accident, I'm usually given the go-ahead to venture towards it, camera/notebook in hand. Permission to do so almost always comes with the caveat that I "stay out of everybody's way," but I'm usually happy to oblige on that one, mostly because I won't be allowed access again if I don't.

I'm a compulsive rule-follower, in case you can't tell; I tend to do what I'm told.

In my nearly six-year career as a journalist, I've made it a habit to follow emergency crews around when in need of something to write about. I've covered murders, bank robberies, accidents (involving everything from cars and tractor trailers to trains),

structure fires and more. I even spent a freezing couple of hours in Boston during the Occupy movement when the city issued an eviction notice to the protestors there. (I left before they did.)

I've been on no fewer than three ride-alongs with police officers in an effort to get a better understanding of their job and its associated stressors, and as a result, have a great deal of respect for law enforcement.

However, the one thing I really wanted to do was shadow the fire department.

I am all-too-familiar with the dangers associated with being a firefighter. After all, I grew up hearing about it. My grandfather spent 30 years as a fireman working up the ranks in Springfield, and I've heard numerous stories about various blazes he's battled (the danger of each was toned down for our family's benefit, I'm sure). And as a reporter assigned to cover the local department, I have made a number of friends who currently volunteer as call firefighters for the town in which we live. They, too, tell me stories about the job, and I always listen in rapt attention. But still, I wanted more.

After a year as editor here in Agawam — where I started a weekly fire log to give my readers some insight as to what kinds of calls the fire department responds to — I put in a request with Chief Alan Sirois to spend the day with his department. What, exactly, is it like to work as a firefighter, I wondered.

I pitched the idea to Sirois ("I want to do a day-in-the-life piece," I told him), saying that my corresponding article would run in a special supplement to appear in the Feb. 16 edition of *Agawam Advertiser News* called "Where We Live."

And the best part is? He let me.

The endless amount of paperwork I filled out prior to showing up at the station informed me that, "The job of a firefighter is inherently dangerous and may result in injury or death." (Really? I heard that before.) After several weeks of dotting I's and crossing T's, I was finally given the go-ahead.

I got up bright and early on Friday, Jan. 20 and made my way to the fire headquar-

ters on Main Street, where I was put in the capable hands of the firefighters assigned to B Group.

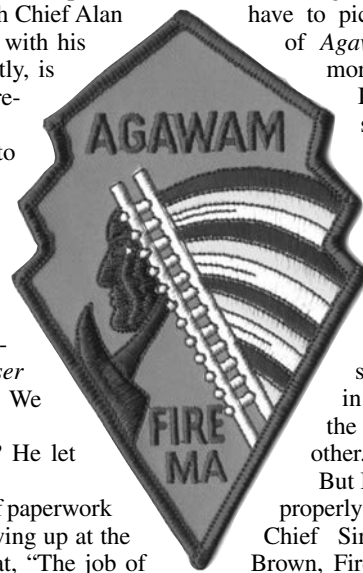
Without giving anything away (you'll have to pick up the Feb. 16 edition of *Agawam Advertiser News* for more), I just have to say, if ever I am in need of emergency services while I'm in Agawam, I fervently hope it's on a day that B Group is working.

Those men really know their stuff.

In the meantime, it's pretty much a safe bet that I'll see them again soon: On the street, camera in hand, trying to stay out of the way of some emergency or other.

But I would be remiss if I didn't properly thank them, so here it is: Chief Sirois, Deputy Chief Gary Brown, Fire Inspector Scott Mitchell, Lt. Jim Deming and firefighters Tony Albano, John Pollock, Ray Lemek, Marc Pereira, and Ray Pond, thank you for giving me the opportunity to follow you around and pester you with questions all day long.

I'm a better reporter for it. Didn't I say that I love this job?



Agawam Rotary to meet Feb. 1

The Agawam Rotary Club will meet Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 12:15 p.m. at Storowton Tavern for lunch. Representatives from Small Business Association will be the featured guests.

Check the Rotary out locally at www.agawamrotary.org. As Rotarians, they sponsor local scholarships and charities and raise money for local, national, and international service projects, including the worldwide elimination of polio and providing clean drinking water. For more information on Rotary International, visit rotary.org.

K of C to host blood drive

The Knights Of Columbus will host a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center's Blood Bank, Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 2-6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information, call 786-3091.

Conservation Commission opening announced

AGAWAM - Mayor Richard A. Cohen is seeking residents to be appointed to fill a current vacancy on the Conservation Commission. Any resident interested in being appointed to this commission should forward a letter of interest and resume to the Mayor's Office, Town of Agawam, 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001.

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TOWNS, from page 1

in October and maintained that level in November.

West Springfield

Neighboring West Springfield has a similar story to tell. Its November unemployment rate was 6.9. In absolute terms, a labor force of 14,524 included 1,001 unemployed that month. But in December, while the state’s unemployment rate as we’ve seen went down, West Springfield’s went up, to 7.3 percent. The labor force itself shrank slightly, to 14,466, and the number of unemployed hiked to 1,059.

As with Agawam, the December increase reversed a downward trend. The year 2011 began in West Springfield with unemployment at 10.4 percent. This had fallen to 8.7 by June, 7.5 in October and as noted 6.9 in November.

The labor force of these two towns is different in other respects. For example, by industry, the largest employer in Agawam is manufacturing. The average number of people employed in manufacturing through 2010 (the latest year for which a number is

available) was 2,127. They received total wages of more than \$110 million.

In West Springfield, on the other hand, the largest employer by industry is the retail trade, which employed 3,519 people that year and paid them a total of \$119.6 million.

Southwick

The numbers for nearby Southwick tells much the same story: Its November unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. This rose 0.8 percent to 6.5 percent in December. As with other local towns, this was a reversal of consistent improvement in the employment situation in the year until then. Southwick has a much smaller labor force than either West Springfield or Agawam: 5,206 in December. Of those, 340 were unemployed. The rate had been 11.2 at the start of 2011, 7.7 in June, and 6.2 in October.

The largest slice of the Southwick employment pie (as measured, again, by 2010 figures) belongs to manufacturing – average employment of 452, total wages of \$27.3 million. The second largest slice is retail – average employment of 393, total wages of \$8.2 million.

grant that is only given if the community appropriates 100 percent of the project cost. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) voted Jan. 9 to pass the request along to the city council for final approval.

Following on the heels of the announcement that the grant application was not accepted, town officials plan to regroup before moving forward.

At presstime, Jan. 25, a joint ad hoc recreation and ad hoc CPA subcommittee meeting was scheduled to take place at Agawam Public Library.

The School Street Park parcel is about 50 acres in size, of which 30 acres are developed, said Sparks.

Cohen said he envisions an area that can be utilized by everyone in town.

“Parks help a community be just that: a community,” Cohen said. “It’s an amenity that is important to the people who live here.”

PARC, from page 1

2003 and has worked since then to make it a place for residents to enjoy.

“It’s important to complete the park as we originally stated,” said Cohen. “The land is available and the park can be utilized by the entire community.”

He went on to say that projects like this are important for the town.

The original proposal for School Street Park includes open space with covered picnic shelters, a volleyball court, a playground, a spray park, restroom facilities, parking for over 200 cars, a band shell, a multi-use field, an educational wetland overlook, and maintenance facilities.

The total budget for the project was estimated at \$2.3 million. Sparks originally sought \$2 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds in order to secure the \$500,000 PARC grant, a reimbursement

Senior Center Friends announce upcoming trips

The Friends of the Agawam Senior Center have announced the following upcoming trips.

Showtime in Penn Dutch Country, April 25 – 27: 3 days, 5 meals, 2 shows. Enjoy Sight and Sound Theatre’s newest musical extravaganza, “Jonah;” as well as “9 to 5, the Musical” at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, an Amish Wedding feast dinner, Hershey’s Chocolate World and several other attractions. Price: \$442 (per person double occupancy); single: \$518; Triple: \$432.

Cinco de Mayo, Friday, May 4: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Joey Vincent at the Farmington Marriott. The featured entertainer, the multi-talented Joey Vincent, will take you on a one-man musical journey from the 1930s to today. \$65 per person (includes all taxes and gratuities).

Atlantic City at Resorts, Tuesday, June 12-Thursday, June 14: 3 days, 3 meals and show. Includes motorcoach transportation, two nights at Resorts Atlantic City with slot bonus of \$45, two buffet dinners and additional \$10 food credit and tickets to the Review Show. Price: \$266 (per person, double/triple occupancy); Single: \$366.

A Cruise on the Pilgrim Belle, Tuesday, Aug. 21: Cruise Plymouth Harbor in style and comfort aboard the Pilgrim Belle, a Mississippi-style paddle-wheeler for a 75-minute tour of this historic town and harbor. Luncheon is at Isaac’s Restaurant located on the historic Plymouth waterfront. \$68 per person (includes all taxes and gratuities).

Canada Cruise aboard Brilliance of the Seas, Sept. 21 – Oct. 3: 12 nights from New Jersey. Ten-night cruise experiencing the breathtaking beauty of the

maritime coastline. Includes two nights in Quebec City before returning home by motorcoach. Price: \$1909-\$2529 (per person double occupancy).

“Oh What a Night” at Foxwoods Resort & Casino, Wednesday, Oct. 24: An exciting musical revue show featuring the music of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. Includes lunch buffet and \$10 Keno. \$66 per person (includes all taxes and gratuities).

Country Music Jamboree, Tuesday, Nov. 13: Welcome to the Castle of Knights in Chicopee for a Country Music Jamboree. The featured entertainment, the Crooked Ledge Band, promises a good time with music from classic country to rockin’ country, line dancing and good listening. \$39 per person (with transportation on own).

A Swingin’ Big Band Christmas Show, Tuesday, Dec. 4: Celebrate the season in grand style with Jim Fryer and Celebration Swing. These wonderfully talented musicians specialize in the sounds of the Big Band era. The festivities take place at the beautiful Tekoa Country Club in Westfield. \$47 per person (with transportation on own)

For more information, call Nellie Mathias at (413) 786-9093 or Penny Hardick at (413) 896-0825.

The public is invited to join the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center for the following Mohegan Sun trips, held the fourth Monday of the month: Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22 and Nov. 26.

For information on the Mohegan trips, call Nellie Mathias at (413) 786-9093 or Helen Elkas at (413) 786-8685.

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65					66					67	
68						69				70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Point one point E of due S

4. Slithered

8. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)

11. Direct the steering of a ship

13. Chops with irregular blows

15. Plural of hilum

16. Incline from vertical (geo.)

17. Simple word forms

18. Paddles

19. Roman garment

21. Meat skewers

23. Ethiopia (abbr.)

25. The cry made by sheep

26. Beatty-Bening movie

30. Concealed

33. Political action committee

34. High rock piles (Old English)

35. Scottish County (abbr.)

36. Goat and camel hair fabric

37. A very large body of water

38. Fabric stain

39. Israeli city ___ Aviv

40. Shoe’s underside

42. Military legal corps

43. Patti Hearst’s captors

44. Undecided

48. ‘_ death do us part

49. Supervises flying

50. Many headed monsters

54. Literary language of Pakistan

57. Halo

58. Hawaiian hello

63. Lubricants

65. Mild exclamation

66. Greek fresh-water nymph

67. Nickname for grandmother

68. A restaurant bill

69. Automaker

Ransom E.

70. A young man

CLUES DOWN

1. Schenectady County

Airport

2. Small water craft

3. Opposite of ecto

4. The woman

5. Skeletal muscle

6. Devoid of warmth and cordiality

7. Decameter

8. Italian goodbye

9. Mediation council

10. Impudence

12. A desert in S Israel

14. Japanese seaport

15. Nob or goblin

20. Ingested

22. Swiss river

24. Protects head from weather

25. Lava rock

26. Designer identifier

27. 34470 FL

28. Petrified ancient animal

29. Gas used in refrigeration

30. Journeys to Mecca

31. Eighth month, Jewish calendar

32. Small indefinite quantity

33. Taps

41. Extremely high frequency

44. Iguanidae genus

45. From the Leaning Tower’s city

46. Cologne

47. Moses’ elder brother (Bible)

50. A minute amount (Scott)

51. Hindu name for 4 epochs

52. Faded and dull

53. Radioactivity unit

55. The face of a clock

56. The inner forearm bone

59. Tai language of the Mekong region

60. Embrocate

61. Possessed

62. Public promotions

64. Sorrowful

Answers on page 15

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NEW LISTING



\$344,000

Many pleasant surprises are found in this beautiful 5-bed, 3.5-bath one time ranch now expanded colonial. 2-bdrms are on the 1st floor and the remaining 3 on the 2nd floor. The 1st floor defines wide open floor plan with an incredible front entry room. The completely renovated kitchen is off the back of the home giving more room. This home was designed to utilized space to the fullest. Closets galore, huge basement, 2-concrete patios, a rear garage door, fenced in yard and so on. #1313179

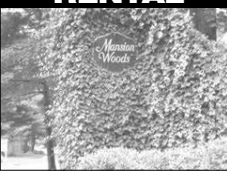
NEW LISTING



\$150,000

Lovingly maintained & updated 3 bedroom 1.5 bath townhouse style condo in Sheri Lane Estates. Updates throughout were started two years ago and are now complete. This is an exceptional unit that needs to be seen to be appreciated. Schedule your private tour! #1321468

RENTAL



\$1,200/mth

Mansion Woods, one of the most sought after condominium complexes in all of Agawam is the setting for this 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo. Outside enjoy the peaceful park like grounds and double tennis court. Inside you get an updated unit with ample room and full basement for your storage. This unit is offers quality of living at an affordable price. #1311552

\$288,000



A true gem in an exceptional area describes this move-in-cond 3-bdrm, 2 full bath colonial. Amenities include: hardwood & granite counter tops/stainless appl/beautiful in-ground pool & patio w/a 3 season porch. Recent updates: hot water tank/vinyl fence front & rear/stove & dishwasher/2nd flr carpets, vanity & flr/pool liner/. Simply put this home is extraordinary, pride of ownership radiates through. #1286616

\$350,000



Wonderfully cared for & updated large colonial w/great extra features on cul-de-sac! Beautifully maintained grounds come w/a detached 3rd car garage/storage shed w/ electricity, large deck w/built-in benches, spacious patio beneath grapevines & above ground pool. Interior features a two-story foyer entrance, formal living & dining rooms & huge master suite w/additional room attached for use of your choice! Half finished basement area with newly built, fully tiled full bath. #1250386

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In the Classroom

Agawam students excel at Model Congress



Turley Publications courtesy photo

AHS students Maura Curran (seated, second from right), Anthony Hollywood (standing, third from right) and Tim Provost, (front row, right) received honorable mention at the annual Model Congress held at American International College recently.

SPRINGFIELD – Students from Agawam High School were recognized recently for their efforts at the 72nd annual Model Congress at American International College.

Maura Curran, Anthony Hollywood and Tim Provost, of Agawam High School, received honorable mentions at the three-day event, Jan. 12-14, the longest running event of its kind in the country.

The Agawam delegates submitted a bill to help expand the use of DNA and fingerprints for the identification and prosecution of criminals. The delegates, led by advisor Keith Ireland, sponsored a measure that would protect the lives of unborn children by banning late-term abortions.

More than \$200,000 in AIC scholarships was awarded to delegates during the event, with the top prize going to Nicole Akramoff of St. Joseph Central High School in Pittsfield. She will receive a full tuition scholarship to AIC for four years.

More than 250 students from throughout New England and New York attended the 72nd Model Congress. They worked on a variety of bills, including legislation that would help expand the use of DNA and fingerprints for the identification and prosecution of criminals; a bill to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil while developing alternative energy sources in the United States by lifting restrictions on offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; and a Welfare Reform Bill that would deny welfare benefits to individuals that do not have a High School diploma or a GED.

The students submitted the legislation prior to the start of Model Congress, and each bill was then debated, amended and voted on during committee meetings. Bills that were approved in committee were taken up the next day in House and Senate sessions.

AIC faculty judges rated the delegates on their debating and oratorical skills, as well as their knowledge and use of Robert's Rules of Order.

Band Parents schedule meeting

The Agawam High School Band Parents Association will hold its next meeting Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Agawam High School's band room. All band parents and band students are welcome to attend and are reminded to turn in the Little Caesar Pizza order forms on this date.

Campus notes...

Residents attain dean's list honors

The following local residents have been named to the fall dean's list at their respective colleges.

American International College: Marina Antonyuk, Cindy Brandon, Kevin Chevalier, Nathaniel Codner, Elizabeth Klimczak, Jessica Liquori, Christina Petrucci, Rachel Pokorny, Devin Ryan, Karolina Sowinska and Heather Zielenski, all of Agawam.

New England College: Alyssa Bonavita, of Agawam.

Salem State University: Keeley Conte, of Agawam, and Rebecca Montano, of Feeding Hills.

UMass Dartmouth: Samantha Hurley and Jillian Van Ness, both of Agawam.

Western New England University: Andre N. Lamoureux, Steven M. Jefferson, Taylor C. Coulter, James G. DeVoe, Daniel J. Masciotra, and Sarah A. St. Germain, all of Agawam.

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When we lose those things that are dear to us – our loved ones, our health, even our minds, there is only one thing left to hold onto. It is faith. I have visited many elderly Christians with Alzheimer’s and it never ceases to amaze me that they remember the name of Jesus and can sing songs about Him.

Faith becomes a safe haven, where we do not have to bolster ourselves from our fears and apprehensions; where we surrender to a loving Savior knowing that He will not allow us to fall into the bottomless pit, but will bring us home with Him forever.

As Christians, we believe in the Lord’s second coming, and we know that if His second coming is delayed, we will face death. But our faith forms a wall, a new house, a structure where we are free from the fear of death.

Death truly lays bare all that really matters, and in doing so it becomes our judge. When we face death it is only our faith in Christ, our faith in His overcoming of death and our faith in His resurrection from the grave that matters. So because of our faith, death becomes the most healing paradox of our existence. Faith becomes all that matters.



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Agawam Schools’ weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 30: French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, orange wedges, juice cups.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Steak and cheese grinder, baked Fritos, 3-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit, dessert.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, wheat breadstick, Italian mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit, vanilla cake with icing.

Thursday, Feb. 2: Quesadilla cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 3: Chicken patty on a roll with condiments, baked potato wedges, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit, dessert.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 30: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, Rice Krispie Treat.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, orange wedges, juice cup.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Assorted grinders, Cape Cod chips, fresh baby carrots, juice box, 2-pack Oreo cookie.

Thursday, Feb. 2: Quesadilla cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 3: Steak and cheese grinder, baked Fritos, marinated three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit, dessert.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 30: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, Rice Krispie Treat.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, orange wedges, juice cup.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, California mix vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit, wacky cake.

Thursday, Feb. 2: Quesadilla cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 3: Foot-long hotdog on a roll with condiments, seasoned baked beans, coleslaw, fresh and chilled fruit, brownie.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Jan. 30: Baked chicken sticks with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit, Rice Krispie Treat.

Tuesday, Jan. 31: Baked French toast sticks with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, orange wedges, juice cup.

Wednesday, Feb. 1: Buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, California mix vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit, wacky cake.

Thursday, Feb. 2: Quesadilla cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 3: Foot-long hotdog on a roll with condiments, seasoned baked beans, coleslaw, fresh and chilled fruit, brownie.

Ashley Weir to wed Richard Walker

Ingeborg I. Holland, formerly of Agawam, announces the engagement of her granddaughter, Ashley Monique Weir, daughter of Brenda Santinello, of Agawam, and Richard Weir, of Rutland, Vt., to Richard Charles Walker, son of Richard and Judith Walker, of Agawam.

The bride-to-be is a student at Westfield State University and will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology next spring. She works full-time at the Westfield YMCA as a pre-school teacher.

The future groom is self-employed. He will be finishing his education in energy system technology at STCC.

A 2013 wedding will take place.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Richard C. Walker and Ashley M. Weir

SAPELLI, from page 1

the position,” said Bonavita. “He brings continuity to the district, but he also brings new ideas. Our goal was to hire the person who will do the best job for Agawam’s schools. I believe we have done that with Bill.”

As Agawam’s chief academic officer, Sapelli oversees a student population of 4,300 and a staff of 600 with an annual budget of nearly \$34 million. He said his annual salary is still being negotiated. Czajkowski was paid \$142,000 annually.

One of the most daunting issues facing him – and the district – is the budget and the economy. “In these times of decreasing funding, we have to do more with less money while continuing to offer students a quality education,” said Sapelli.

He said another reality that Agawam and other school districts must confront are many new federal and state mandates that don’t have any funding attached.

“A new state curriculum frameworks requirement, for example, involves a large amount of curriculum writing and approving new textbooks for certain grade levels. It’s an expensive venture, so with our limited funding we will have to solve that particular problem,” he said.

Sapelli, however, is confident the district will succeed. “We have a great staff that is committed to education as well as supportive parents and school committee members. Working together, we can make good things happen.”

He hasn’t taught for more than 25 years, but Sapelli’s heart is still in the classroom. He often makes impromptu classroom visits at the junior high school – where his office is located – as well as at Agawam’s seven other schools.

He added that it’s “easy to get locked in with paperwork,” so he always looks for opportunities to be visible and to visit with students and teachers. Sapelli said watching the enthusiasm and excitement of students and interacting with them and their teachers in the classroom always reminds him of why



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Agawam School Superintendent William Sapelli (left) talks in his office with Agawam School Committee Vice Chair Anthony Bonavita following Sapelli’s appointment as head of the school department.

he’s an educator.

“I miss being with the kids, but I love visiting classrooms. Teachers often get me involved with what’s going on in their classes, even drawing me into conversations with students. As an administrator I don’t want to lose that connection,” he said.

While he won’t be leaving any time soon now, Sapelli says that becoming superintendent in the town where he grew up and where he started teaching is one of his greatest achievements. “That’s the pinnacle in education. But what I hope people will remember about me is that I’m someone who cares and who helps people—not just administrators but also parents, students, and teachers.”



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Turley Editorial Coverage Policies

CALENDAR

This section is intended to promote “free” events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

EDUCATION

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests at least three days in advance. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other

town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly “editorial.” Some readers confuse editorials with being objective “news.” Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or compiled through our reporters' stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That's the whole point of the “opinion” page.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people

news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

OBITUARIES

Unlike our daily competitors, we don't charge a penny to print obituaries. We also print death notices the way the family wants them printed. Obituaries with time-sensitive funeral services take priority. We will not print obituaries that are unconfirmed through a funeral home or death notice. We are willing to work with families to obtain the necessary confirmation, however. Photos of the deceased are always welcomed.

SPORTS

Our Sports Editor Dave Forbes and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups. You can e-mail Dave Forbes at dforbes@turley.com.

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Art in the classroom

Visiting guest artist Donna Estabrooks visited 11 visual art classes of Deb Florek and Amber Waters at Agawam High School Jan. 17. Working with students, Estabrooks, a resident of Florence, created two paintings every period using acrylic paints and multiple creative techniques.

“My art is focused on the human condition, such as courage or hope, love, unity, relationships,” she said. “It’s an expression of whatever I might happen to be dealing with in my life.

“After I create a piece, I look into it for some time, and then I see something that I

might never have seen before. It’s more of a discovery process, and it’s really thrilling to me. I pray every day to accomplish my mission as an artist dedicated to world peace by producing art that touches people’s lives,” she said. “This means to me that no matter what happens in my life, I won’t be swayed in my faith or in my creative life. I’ll continue doing my art.”

Estabrooks graduated from the University at Amherst in 1982 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting. She taught there for nine years as an artist-in-residence.

“Although technically I work with acrylics and oil pastels, I feel any other aspect of my work is really about my spirituality and my Buddhist practice. Technique seems unimportant – it’s really more about listening. Listening and also letting go,” she said.

Estabrooks has donated one of these large paintings to the AHS library for permanent display.

The visiting artist program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





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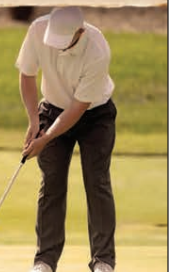
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HEALTHGRADES





Students, parents smile for science



Gabriel Ronald Rua, 6, had a blast making Lego creations.

Granger Elementary School science teacher Tammy Rumpalik utilized the recent parent/teacher conference night as a learning (and fundraising) opportunity. She is trying to raise money to purchase and install a “Bright Link” interactive educational whiteboard, which can cost up to \$2,500. In lieu of leaving the kids at home to meet with teachers, parents were able to bring them along for a \$2 fee, to go directly to the “Bright Link” fund. While parents and teachers met in classrooms, students got to conduct fun science experiments. The event was deemed a success and left everyone (parents included) smiling for science.



The finished product. Science proves a success.



Olivia Depergola, 10, and AHS National Honor Society volunteer, Leisl Bard made a larger than life creation out of K'Nex.

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Olivia Checca, 9, decided to see if she could make the raisins “dance.”





Agawam High School National Honor Society students volunteered their time to help out at the event. Pictured here are Brandon Opitz, Vicki Bortolussi, Caitlin Heer and Katy Leathem.



Jacob Griswold, 8, was ready for the exploding action as his film canister shot into the air thanks to Alka-Seltzer and sodium bicarbonate.



LEFT and RIGHT: Madeline McGregor and Alexis Hurley, both 5, get step-by-step help from NHS volunteer, Caroline Daubitz on how to make their own colorful crystals.



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SPORTS

Brownies stem tide against Green Wave

Mercandante notches game-winner in second period

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam High School hockey has been tested during the past two weeks as it lost its leading scorer and one of their best all-around offensive players to a severe season-ending injury, as well as serving two straight losses against tough teams.

But the Brownies rebounded nicely on Saturday evening as they beat Greenfield, 2-1, handing the visiting Green Wave their first loss of the season in a game that was decided in the second period on a Joe Mercandante goal.

The center scored five minutes into the second period when he followed a shot toward the Greenfield goal. Mercandante then

got to the ricochet, bobbled the puck, then shot on the goal, putting the puck in the lower right corner of the net.

The goal made the score 2-0 and Agawam, which had lost to Greenfield 3-2 in their first meeting earlier this season, was well on their way to a dominant victory as they held a 13-4 shot advantage when they scored the goal.

But the Green Wave would come back, gaining some momentum on possession as the period continued. The Green Wave also became more physical as the period went on and a fight almost broke out between players from both teams.

The Green Wave would nearly score with 6:23 left in the period when one of their forwards went out on a breakaway, but Agawam's defense held.

Please see HOCKEY, page 15



Agawam's Joe Shea takes a faceoff during the second period.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Erik Wagner advances up the ice during the first period of Agawam's 2-1 win over Greenfield last Saturday.

Defense helps Brownies hold back Lions

Fall in tough one to Comp

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys basketball team has struggled all season long, but still has yet to fully encounter their league schedule as they played their first game, edging one of the worst teams in Division 1, 50-49, Monday night.

The Brownies defeated Ludlow, which dropped to 0-11 this season and gave Agawam just its second win of the season.

The Brownies, however, were very lucky to escape with the win after building an eight-point lead at halftime and watching it evaporate throughout the second half.

But a turnover in their final possession would foil the Lions chance of winning in the game's final seconds.

Agawam had a strong first half and got 20 points from a re-emerging Patrick Oleksak, who had been quiet much of the season. Oleksak notched three 3-pointers in the win. The Brownies also received support from Tyler Lyne, who had 12 points, and A.J. Efstratios contributed seven points.

Ludlow got a good game from Christopher Cullhane, who scored 19 points. Jordon Smith would add 17 points in the Lions loss.

Agawam also had a game against Chicopee Comp they saw get away from them early in the second half. Agawam was at the time matched up against the Colts, who like them, only had one win in the regular season.

But the Colts did not score or shoot like a team that had only won one game all season as they put up 70 points in a 70-51 victory over Agawam at Clifford Kibbe Gymnasium.

The Brownies held an early lead in the game against the Colts, ending the first quarter with the lead. But the Colts came on strong during the second quarter, and took the lead quickly and outscored Agawam 23-11.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Tyler Derosiers ducks a couple of Chicopee Comp players before going up for a shot.

Comp would continue in the third quarter with exceptional distance shooting and a balanced attack from their entire roster. In all, 10 different players would score for the Colts, including three in double digits. Tevin Jiminez would lead

Please see BASKETBALL, page 16

Agawam splits with Central

Girls win, boys lose

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD – It was a mixed day for Agawam in the swimming meet at Central High. The girls dominated by a 124-57 score, taking first in all 12 events. While the boys managed five firsts in the meet, they lost by a 116-67 score.

The girls took charge immediately with a 1-2 finish in the 200-yard medley relay. It was Kaitlyn McLaughlin, Mackenzie Gendron, Anna Lovotti and Alexis Anderson winning in 2 minutes, 8.60 seconds. The foursome of Madeline Heelon, Christa Hurley, Kendra Matland and Both Haggerty finished second.

At 12-2, the Brownies were off and running. Gendron won the 200-yard freestyle in 2:16.08 with fourth and fifth going to Amanda Shea and Kate Morin. Megan Dustin (2:20.65) won the 200-yard Individual Medley, while Ally Weiner got second and Hurley fifth.

It was first and second again in the 50-yard freestyle with Lovotti (27.53) and Andrews. The diving followed and the winner was Morin with 132.0 points, while Monique Groux was third. Agawam had built up a 50-24 lead.

The swimming resumed with the 100-yard butterfly and that was won by Lovotti in 1:09.62, while Matland was third. In the 100-yard freestyle, first went to Dustin (58.04) and second to McLaughlin. Haggerty got two points for fourth. The 500-yard was won by Weiner in 6:09.22 with Morin and Allison Schwarz in fourth and fifth.

The Brownies took the top two spots in the 200-yard freestyle. **Please see SWIM, page 15**

ATHLETE *of the Week*

Rackliffe hoping to lead Lady Brownies to great success

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - Going into the 2011-2012 season, the Agawam girls basketball team knew it would have its share of struggles with very little experience returning to the team.

But the Brownies are holding their own and still remain in the hunt for a playoff spot with some veteran and upstart talent keeping them in games.

Alycia Rackliffe has had a very consistent season and several double-digit performances for the Brownies thus far and is the choice to be the Agawam Advertiser News Athlete of the Week.

Rackliffe has 29 points in Agawam's past two games, unfortunately both losses for the Brownies, but the junior has added to her team lead and now has 123 points. She led the squad with 19 points in Agawam's 58-47 loss against West Springfield last week.

She began playing basketball nine years ago by playing in the Agawam Parks & Recreation league. She would then move on to play Suburban league basketball during her middle school years, leading into playing at the high school level. She says the high school level has presented her with a big challenge.

"The skill level of the individual players

is much higher in the high school leagues," said Rackliffe. "The teams are also put together much better."

She said during this year, she is hoping to improve herself to become a better all-around player on both sides of the ball. But Rackliffe hopes to lead her team to a better overall season.

"We all share the same values and work ethics to become a better team," said Rackliffe. "We work hard in practice every day."

She said while she has a desire to achieve her own success, she would trade it any time for a team victory and hopes more of them are in Agawam's future this season.

Rackliffe is an excellent all-around athlete. She is a member of the girls volleyball team during the fall season and the lacrosse team during the spring. Both teams have been in the tournament the past seasons, so Rackliffe is very familiar with the increased competition at those levels.

She is also active at Agawam High School as a member of the Key Club, Student Government, and Generation for Truth.

Rackliffe plans to attend college in the future and wants to major in nutrition and become a registered dietician. She also hopes to play volleyball or basketball in college.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Alycia Rackliffe, who began playing basketball nine years ago, has led the Lady Brownies in scoring the last two games.

SWIM, from page 14

freestyle relay. McLaughlin, Haggerty, Hurley and Andrews won. Groux, Andrews, Lindsay Gordon and Amanda Smith swam on the second place relay. The lead had grown to 92-43.

McLaughlin (1:12.17) won the 100-yard backstroke with Heelon second and Shea in fourth. Gendron swam the breaststroke in 1:17.10 to win. Groux was second and Matland was fifth.

First and second was also the result in the

400-yard freestyle relay. Lovotti, Gendron, Weiner and Dustin won in 4:18.08. Andrews, Gordon, Shea and Heelon were second.

The boys meet was dominated by Central. Agawam's foursome of Greg McLaughlin, Jared Lubarsky, Scott Laviano and Anthony Anton placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

The Brownies got wins in the 200-yard freestyle from Laviano (2:12.30) and Lubarsky (2:23.46) in the 200-yard Individual Medley.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Cam Rivest tries to control the puck near the Greenfield goal.

HOCKEY, from page 14

wam's Cam Pinkham would make a phenomenal save to keep the score 2-0.

Greenfield would then go on a power play and be denied by Agawam once again. But the Green Wave would finally break through just after the power play ended when Eric Cameron worked his way around two Agawam defenders, and managed to squeeze a shot through Pinkham's pads.

But that would be all the major offense Greenfield would get. They would only manage six shots during the third period, and very little offense when they emptied the net at the end of the game.

Agawam got a major power play at the end of the first period to gain the lead after a Greenfield player was sent to the penalty box for a severe hit on Cam Rivest. The player checked Rivest into the boards, hitting Rivest in the head directly with his body. It resulted in a four-minute major penalty, an advantage Agawam would have the entire time period regardless of whether they scored.

And the Brownies would score with less

than a minute remaining in the period.

Justin Lecuyer scored 15 seconds into the power play when a pass was sent away from the goal to Lecuyer waiting in the center near the blue line. Lecuyer shot between the goaltender's pads for the first goal of the game.

Pinkham made 19 saves in the win for Agawam.

Agawam learned last week they had lost Corey Jenks for the rest of the season after he injured his wrist. Near the end of Agawam's 2-1 loss on Jan. 14 against Ludlow, Jenks' wrist was sliced by an opponent's skate. The slice tore a muscle. Jenks was Agawam's leading scorer heading into that game and had been the main catalyst for the Brownies offense.

Agawam is 6-5-1 this season and next plays on Saturday against Belchertown at 12 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

College Notes

Local student-athletes named to MAS-CAC Fall 2011 All-Academic Team

BUZZARDS BAY - A total of 500 student-athletes have been honored by the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference with selection to the league's Fall 2011 All-Academic Team.

Student-athletes that compete in championship varsity sports offered by each of the eight MASCAC institutions during the course of the recently completed Fall 2011 academic semester and have achieved a 3.20 cumulative or semester-based grade point average during the semester are eligible for selection to the Fall All-Academic Team.

The following student-athletes from

Agawam made the list: Bridgewater State junior football player Matthew MacFadden, Fitchburg State women's soccer senior Erica Graves, Westfield State women's cross country senior Carly Keeley, Westfield State women's volleyball freshman Carole Duquette, Worcester State women's soccer sophomore Gaby Gonet and Worcester State women's volleyball senior Katey Figella.

Chase helps out in loss

SPRINGFIELD - Mt. Holyoke women's basketball senior forward Tricia Chase finished with seven points in a 66-57 loss to Springfield College on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

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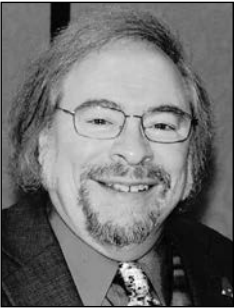
by Carl Beane

Great weekend for Pats, Bruins and Celtics

Hello ladies and gentlemen boys and girls and welcome to the Beanepot. For New England sports fans last Sunday was paradise. The Celtics and Bruins came up with gutsy wins, but the Patriots game was one for the ages. The green got a huge game from their captain, Paul Pierce on the road against the Wizards, and the Bruins out fought and outscored the Flyers and are now on their All Star break.

The Patriots victory was magnificent and they deserved to win. They did play better for the most part against the Ravens. This despite Tom Brady having a lousy game including throwing an horrific interception directly after the Pats had taken the ball away from Baltimore via an interception of their own. For the second game in a row the defense really came through when it mattered with veteran Vince Wolfork leading the way. The other amazing play was made by Sterling Moore stripping the ball in the end zone denying a late Baltimore touchdown to prevent the Birds from winning. Let's not forget to thank place kicker Billy Cundiff, who got a severe case of the yips and shanked a gimme 32-yard field goal with 15 seconds left in regulation. Whew!!

So now all the hype begins for Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis. Much will



be written about the rematch but really this game presents itself far differently than Super Bowl XVII in 2008. That year the Pats were expected to be there having gone undefeated all season. New York did not have great faith in a shaky Eli Manning, but the G-men won anyway. New England will be a slight favorite to win another Vince Lombardi Trophy as well they should. You know Tom Brady will not have another crappy game as he did last week, Ron Gronkowski will be ready to play, and the defense will do everything it takes to win. I think they will.

Huge credit must be given to Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who has run this organization with dignity and class for 18 years. This in many ways has been his most difficult year ever beginning with the loss of his beloved wife Myra. The team and the fans have rallied around her passing as inspiration and now they'd like to finish the job. It was Mr. Kraft who saved the NFL season when other owners were being selfish and petty; Mr. K. got both sides to the table and got it done. As soon as he is eligible Robert Kraft belongs in the National Football League Hall of Fame. Amen.

Carl Beane can be reached at cbeane@carlbeane.com or via his website www.carlbeane.com.

Sports Calendar

Annual Brian Litz Alumni Game slated for Jan. 31

AGAWAM - The fifth Annual Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund Basketball Alumni Game will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Agawam High School gymnasium.

There will be two games that night. The first game will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will include a variety of alumni players battling against each other. The second game will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. and will feature a special "Founder's Team," consisting of former Litz Scholarship award winners and some of Brian's former teammates. They will battle the current AHS varsity basketball team.

The Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of fallen police officer and former Agawam High basketball player, Brian Litz, who was tragically killed in the line of duty. Each year the varsity team votes on the winners of the scholarship award(s).

Registration going on for youth lacrosse

AGAWAM - Registration has begun for the following Agawam Youth Lacrosse programs and will continue through Feb. 17.

Boys and girls will be divided into teams based on grades - grades 3-4 (Bantam); grades 5-6 (Junior Division); and grades 7-8 (Senior Division).

Fees will increase by \$25 after Feb. 1. No registrations will be accepted after Feb. 17.

All lacrosse programs are designed to teach the basic fundamentals of lacrosse and introduce the players to competitive games against surrounding communities.

Practices will begin in April.

For more information on the boys and girls youth lacrosse programs, call the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department at 821-0513.

Discount hockey tickets available at Parks and Rec

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is offering discount tickets to the Springfield Falcons hockey games. A discounted one-price voucher can be purchased for \$11 each at the Parks and Recreation Department and may be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for the home game of your choice.

For Springfield Falcons team information and schedule, visit falconsahl.com.

To purchase vouchers, go to the Parks and Recreation Department at 1000 Suffield St. or call 821-0513.

To get your organization's information placed in the Agawam Advertiser News, contact Sports Editor Dave Forbes at 413-283-8393 ext. 237 or send an email to dforbes@turley.com.

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BASKETBALL, from page 14

the team with 14 points, and notched three of four 3-pointers during the second half to keep a lot of points between the Colts and the Brownies.

Agawam tried in vain to keep up, but was no match for Comp's better shooting and great speed. The Colts also applied excellent pressure in the second half results in several steals.

Agawam was led by Tyler Desrosiers with 11 points. One positive for the Brownies was that 11 different players had at least two points in the game.

Despite Agawam's 2-10 record, they are tied for first place in their league with a 1-0 record and next play on Friday, hosting the team they are tied with, New Leadership, at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Nick D'Amours starts on the outside and calls a play for his offense to run.

The Week Ahead

Thursday, Jan. 26 Boys Basketball New Leadership at Agawam 7 p.m. Skiing Agawam at PVIAC Meet 5 p.m.	Sunday, Jan. 29 No games scheduled.
Friday, Jan. 27 Girls Basketball Chicopee at Agawam 7 p.m. Indoor Track Agawam vs. Chicopee Comp and Longmeadow (at Smith College in Northampton) 6:30 p.m. Swimming Agawam at Chicopee Comp 4 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 30 Boys Basketball Sabis at Agawam 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 28 Hockey Belchertown at Agawam 12 p.m. Wrestling Agawam at Rodney Smith Classic (at East Windsor High School in East Windsor, Conn.) 10 a.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 31 Girls Basketball Agawam at Chicopee Comp 7 p.m. Swimming Agawam at South Hadley 4 p.m.
	Wednesday, Feb. 1 Girls Basketball West Springfield at Agawam 7 p.m. Wrestling Agawam at Ludlow 7 p.m.

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Obituaries & Church News

DOLORES S. PROVOST

Dolores S. (Miller) Provost, 87, of Feeding Hills, entered into eternal rest Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012. Born in Springfield, she lived in Feeding Hills most of her life. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church. Her husband, John J. "Harold" Provost died in 1975 and a son, Gary Provost died in 1999. She leaves a daughter, Joyce M. Skop of Springfield; two grandchildren, Patrice Hardy and Shawna Moriarty; three great-grandchildren, Joshua and Jessica Hardy, and Emily Rose Moriarty; and a great-great-grandchild, Zackari Hussein. A funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St. with burial following in Springfield Street Cemetery. Agawam Funeral Home had charge of arrangements.

RICHARD H. WRIGHT

Richard H. Wright, 73, of Feeding Hills, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012 in Mercy Hospital. Richard was born in Springfield and lived in West Springfield before moving to Agawam 22 years ago. He was a retired truck driver for A.C. Motors in West Springfield. He leaves his wife of 47 years, Judith E. (Cadieux) Wright; a son, David Wright and his wife Michelle of West Springfield; a daughter, Susan Delaney and her husband Joseph of Plymouth; and a grandson, Kyle Wright. A private funeral was held and the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home handled all arrangements.



'Souper Bowl of Caring' to benefit Parish Cupboard

WEST SPRINGFIELD - On Sunday, Jan. 15, the children of Grace Lutheran Church at 1552 Westfield St. received banks that were shaped like bowls. These bowls were to be taken home and placed on the table in their homes to remind them every time they sit down to eat a meal that there are people who have little or nothing to eat and go to bed hungry.

On Feb. 5, Super Bowl Sunday, the banks will be brought to church along with donations of cans of non-perishable food. The money collected will go to the Western Mass Food Bank which provides food to community pantries and soup kitchens to be distributed to those in need. Non-perishables will go to the Parish Cupboard located in West Springfield. The Cupboard provides lunches Monday through Friday for those in need of a hot meal and provides groceries through its food pantry.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It was become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world - as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need. For more information, call the church at (413) 734-9268.

Teen Challenge comes to Agawam

Learn firsthand how Teen Challenge, a faith-based, residential treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, can break the chains of addiction and change lives of any age. Residents of the Brockton Teen Challenge Center will be telling their stories of deliverance and freedom from addiction in word and song at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Agawam Methodist Church, 459 Mill St. There will be time to meet with the members of Teen Challenge before and after the service.

Teen Challenge has been liberating persons of all ages from addiction for over 50 years. Many who seek aid are youths or young adults but not always. Addiction can strike at any age. Many adults with successful careers and accomplishments have lost everything because of addiction before find-

ing their path to freedom at Teen Challenge.

The mission of Teen Challenge is to provide youth, adults and families with an effective and comprehensive Christian faith-based solution to life-controlling drug and alcohol problems in order to become productive members of society. By applying biblical principles, Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

For more information about Teen Challenge's visit to Agawam United Methodist, contact Rebecca Wong at (413) 744-7705 or email at AgawamUMC@gmail.com. For more information about Teen Challenge, visit www.TeenChallengeUSA.com or call (508) 586-1494.

Free medical clinic at Bethany

A New Covenant Free Clinic is being co-sponsored by New Covenant Community Services and Bethany Assembly of God on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 6-8 p.m. The clinic will provide non-emergent care for people age 18 and over.

"The mission is to provide Christ-centered medical care in the Pioneer Valley community by serving the body, mind and spirit with compassionate care," said Dr. Kevin Snow, clinic physician. Although people are required to have insurance in Massachusetts, in the current economic condition some people cannot afford the co-payments to see their primary care physician for immediate non-emergency medical issues. The free clinic is intended

to help these individuals receive the medical care they so desperately need.

The staff of licensed medical care workers is volunteering their time and skills, and no revenue will be collected for the services provided. The entire team is committed to providing quality care on all levels. A visit to the clinic will include a demographic check in, medical assessment, behavioral health assessment (if needed), and spiritual encouragement. The free clinic operates once a month at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. All medical records will be kept in strict confidence.

For more information, call the clinic at (413) 363-0098.

Speaker at First Congregational Church

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The focus of this month's Youth Group gatherings at the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 20 Lathrop St., has been the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The public is invited to the church Friday, Jan. 27 from 7:30 - 9 pm, when Jordan Miller will speak about non-violent resistance to injustice. Miller is a Ph.D candidate in the humanities at Salve Regina University. His areas

of interest include the intersection of theology and ethics in a postmodern world. He is the son of Rev. Jan Powers, pastor at First Church.

The Senior Youth Group is open to youth in grades 7 through 12 and always welcomes new friends. For more information, call 734-7667 or email fccecdirector@yahoo.com. More information about church programs is found at www.firstchurchws.org.

ADOG to host Mohegan trip

Football season will be over and Valentine's Day will be near, so enjoy a night out at Mohegan Sun and help the future Agawam dog park at the same time. The Agawam Dog Owners Group will sponsor a bus trip to Mohegan Sun Saturday, Feb. 11. The bus will depart at 4 p.m. from the parking lot of Dave's Pet City and will leave Mohegan Sun at 11:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and include a \$40 bonus. As part of the package all attendees will receive a \$15 meal/retail credit and \$25 in free bets on the Big 6 Wheel. All proceeds will benefit the proposed Agawam Dog Park. For tickets or more information, contact Scott Milliken at 575-2084 or Debbi Sanchez at 374-4684.

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For more information or to schedule a private tour, please call the school office at 736-2770.

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Business

Shining a light on energy resources

Great Eastern celebrates grand opening in Agawam

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – Energy sales, green energy, and alternative energy continue to be a growing trend in today's society and locally, the town is experiencing a similar trend as companies enter Agawam to move in the direction of providing for the future energy consumption in the community.

Last Tuesday, Jan. 17, Great Eastern Energy celebrated its grand opening on Silver Street. The facility is dedicated to providing Agawam and all of Western Massachusetts with services for energy sales and green energy alternatives.

"It's important people realize that we do not have unlimited resources here in the world," said Matthew Lanfear, owner of the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based company. "We are here to help provide services to the end user of energy, which are the best customers to have."

Lanfear said the decision to move into Western Massachusetts is part of the company's growth and believes there is a market for the energy services his company has to offer.

Mayor Richard A. Cohen, who attended the ribbon cutting event, said energy companies like Great Eastern are always welcome in the community, as it looks to continuously add businesses to the mix, but he believes the emergence of companies like Great Eastern in town are part of a growing trend.

"Energy services are an industry that people are starting to get into," said Cohen. "We absolutely want them in our community."

Energy facilitation and selling has already been happening in Agawam, as Hood recently reached a deal to buy energy credits from a solar park to be installed on a pair of properties in town.

Great Eastern will bring a different form of energy facilitation to the town as the company deals with natural gas, a growing method used for heating, and also works with electrical utilities to provide customers with the better price options for their energy.

"We need to help our customers get the best value out of the energy they are purchasing," said Lanfear. "There is a big market for that out here in Western Massachusetts. It's beneficial for everyone who wants to help keep their costs down and make their profits better."

Lanfear described Great Eastern as a "boutique" firm businesses, which can be utilized to tailor their energy needs for individual use.

"This business can help many people who are trying to keep control of their costs," said Lanfear.

Those services are made possible with the recent deregulation of energy. Previously, power companies had the right to choose how much they could charge, and in what ways they can profit from the fluctuations on the energy market. They also made the decisions on how to deliver service.

Deregulation created an open market for consumers to choose who will provide their services such as a natural gas. Great Eastern provides the sourcing with the energy providers directly and gets the best possible deals for consumers. They also help facilitate the purchase of green energy credits.

With the new Agawam-based office, Great Eastern will be expanding their service coverage to business and industry all over Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Great Eastern, which touts itself as one of the leading providers for industrial energy management, has the potential to make a big impact on businesses in Agawam's active industrial parks in town.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

From left to right: State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, Great Eastern CEO Matthew Lanfear, Lisa Doten, Agawam City Councilor James Cichetti, Mayor Richard Cohen, Council President Christopher Johnson, and Councilor George Bitzas. The group participates in the ceremonial ribbon cutting of Great Eastern Energy last Tuesday night at the new Agawam office.

Knapik joins ECS in Agawam

Environmental Compliance Services, Inc. (ECS) announced this week that Joseph J. Knapik has joined its corporate office in Agawam as director of Training and Facilities Services. Knapik is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) with over 25 years of experience in industrial hygiene, safety and manufacturing management. In his capacity as director of Training and Facilities Services, he will play a key role in developing the firm's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Operator Training program. There are an estimated 380,000 regulated UST facilities in the United States and it is anticipated



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Joseph J. Knapik

that hundreds of thousands of personnel employed at these facilities will require this training before the August 2012 deadline. Knapik will also be spearheading additional ECS product launches, primarily in the training field. He will further develop and expand the firm's suite of health and safety training course offerings, and will direct the implementation of educational, informational, and service products for the regulated business community. Knapik holds a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science. He resides in Holyoke.

Legal Notices

Legal Notice Town of Agawam LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSION AGAWAM, MASSACHUSETTS 01001

The Agawam Liquor License Commission has available a license for beer and malt package store. Anyone wishing to be considered for this license should submit a letter of interest and intent to the "Liquor License Commission", 36 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Margaret McCarthy. **Closing date will be February 24, 2012.**

1/26,2/2,2/9,2/16/12

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 23, 2012

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning

Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA **on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Soldier On Development & Management Co., and Soldier On Veteran Village II, LLC, which is seeking a Comprehensive Permit in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40 B § 20-23 to construct housing on the property identified as 702 South Westfield Street.

Doreen Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
1/26,2/2/12

ADVERTISEMENT
The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for replacing toilets and shower

heads in 146 apartments for the Agawam Housing Authority in Agawam, Massachusetts.

The Project consists of: Replacing existing water closets with low-flow models provided by the Agawam Housing Authority. Replacing existing shower heads and/or hand-held shower wands with low-flow models provided by the Agawam Housing Authority.

The work is estimated to Cost \$29,200.00.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 S44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 SS26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received **until 1:30 P.M., February 10, 2012** and publicly opened, forthwith.

All Bids should be delivered to: Agawam Housing Authority, 66 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, MA 01001 and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Agawam Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at the Agawam Housing Authority, 66 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, MA 01001 after 1:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 25,

2012. The Housing Authority office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

The existing toilets and shower heads will be available for inspection at 10:30 A.M. Friday, February 3, 2012
1/26/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD12C0004CA
In the Matter of:
Lucas Ruben Sepulveda-Lough
OF: Feeding Hills, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Samantha Lough** requesting that: **Lucas Ruben Sepulveda-Lough** be allowed to change his/her/their name as follows:

Lucas Ruben Lough
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 02/10/2012

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 13, 2012
Thomas P. Moriarty Jr.
Register of Probate

1/26/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD12P0060EA
In the Estate of:
Helen Skazenski
Late of:
Agawam, MA 01001
Date of Death: 10/04/2011
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, a petition has been presented requesting that **Robert Terenzi** of West Springfield, MA or some other suitable person be appointed administrator of said estate to serve Without Surety.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said court at: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 02/09/2012

Witness, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 11, 2012
Thomas P. Moriarty, Jr.
Register of Probate

1/26/12

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD12P0060EA MUPC SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE

Estate of:
Helen Skazenski
Date of Death:
October 4, 2011

To all persons who may have an interest in the above-captioned estate, the Division of Medical Assistance and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs:

Notice is being sent to you as you may have a legal interest in this case, in order to inform you of your rights.

Under the new Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code Inventory and Accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can Petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to Petition the Court to Institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of the appointed Personal Representative.

Petitioner requests to be permitted to file a MUPC Bond.
1/26/12

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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Pets

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Tina – 3 y.o. red female, very loving, toes on back foot may need surgery, likes company, does not seem to be cat safe

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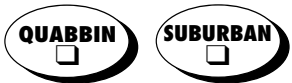
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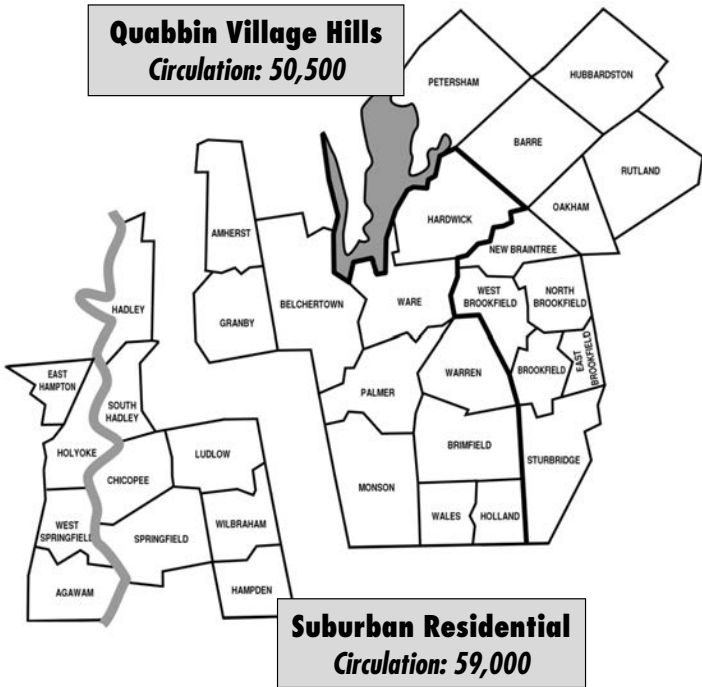
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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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For Rent

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FLA. VACATION RENTAL Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Feb. 4th- 11th. Sleeps 6. 2 baths, full kitchen. Within walking distance to downtown Disney & just min's. from all parks. (413)267-3396.

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WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom, weeks available in May 2012 and more. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

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Governor's Ctr - 66 Broad St., Westfield (562-5464)

RN Supervisor Weekends 7-3 and 3-7 positions
RN, PT treatment positions
RN Per Diem positions all shifts
CNA, FT 7-3 position
CNA, Per Diem positions all shifts

Chapin Ctr - 200 Kendall St., Springfield (737-4756)

RN, FT Unit Manager
RN, FT MDS position
RN, FT 3-11 shift
RN, PT Weekend Supervisor
RN Per Diem all shifts

Apply at individual locations, Call for details

Out & About

Send all community calendar items to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457 or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Please list time, date and place of event, contact information and a brief description of the activity involved. Deadline for all community submissions is noon on Monday.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie at 12:30 p.m. ("This Time for Keeps"). The public is welcome.

KNITTING INSTRUCTOR SANDY ELLIS is at the Agawam Public Library the first Tuesday of the month now through May at the Adult Drop-In Sit & Knit program to offer troubleshooting help and introduce new projects as well. Adult Drop-In Sit & Knit meets Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the library and anyone is welcome. It is for adults 18 and older and no registration is necessary.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAY GROUP offers crafts, stories, songs, free play and more on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Playgroup is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, and takes place at the church located at 745 Main St. For more information, email jbrownacc@verizon.net or call the office at 786-7111.

FIRST PARK MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, corner of Forest Park Ave. and Garfield Street in Springfield, has a Prayer Shawl Ministry that meets every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church parlor. Participants enjoy fellowship while creating shawls for those who need them. Every level of knitting or crocheting is welcome. The public is invited to join. For more information, call the church office at 734-1715.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTER AT ELMS COLLEGE will host an Irish film series at the Alumnae Library Theatre. The next showing will be "Rat," set in Dublin. It will be shown tonight

at 7 p.m. The film showing is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Free will donations accepted. For more information, call (413) 265-2537 or visit irishcenter@elms.edu.

THE CHILDREN'S PLAY GROUP of

First Park Memorial Baptist Church, corner of Forest Park Avenue and Garfield Street in Springfield, meets every Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m. This is an opportunity for mothers or fathers and their pre-school age children to get-together and socialize, share, play and laugh. For more information, call the church office at (413) 734-1715.

Thursday, Feb. 2

AMERICAN LEGION POST 185, located at 478 Springfield St. in Feeding Hills, hosts a fish fry every Thursday night through March with servings from 4-7 p.m. Side orders are also available for purchase. Take-out orders are available and the legion is handicapped-accessible. Seniors are welcome.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Treasures and Traditions," featuring Heather Haskell, director, and Julia Courtney, curator, Springfield Art Museums, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held Sunday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S Applause Series turns its focus skyward Friday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., when Richard Sanderson will take guests on a cosmic adventure through the winter skies, when stars and constellations like Orion and Taurus sparkle. This event is free and open to the public. Additional information on the Applause Series is available at the Agawam Cultural Council website, www.agawamcc.org.

A VALENTINE CHOCOLATE AND JEWELRY FAIR will be hosted by the First Congregational Church, 7 Somers Road, East Longmeadow, Saturday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission and parking are free and there will be a raffle of items do-

It's that time of year...



Turley Publications photo by Connie J. Casagrande

Courageous cookie sellers from Girl Scout Troop 11435 didn't let snow fall dampen their spirits on Saturday. Pictured here are Abby Caoalbo, Alexis Scott and Brianna Gaynor, all 11.

nated by crafters.

SHAKESPEARE RETURNS TO AGAWAM, Monday, Feb. 13 at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., with a showing of "Macbeth" by Shakespeare & Co. from Lenox. The doors will open to the public at 9:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. showing. The event is free and open to the public.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL HOST A BLOOD DRIVE for Mercy Medi-

cal Center's Blood Bank, Tuesday, Feb. 14 from 2-6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information, call 786-3091.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

ACC to meet Feb. 14

The Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) will meet, Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public. If you have an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town, a great opportunity exists with the ACC. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the

mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Indulge yourself at Culture & Cocktails

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Museums' Culture & Cocktails series will continue with "Indulgence: An Evening of Wine & Chocolate" on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Michele & Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts.

Guests will enjoy wine-tasting provided by Table & Vine, chocolate samples and pairing tips by Chocolate Works of East Longmeadow, and live music by the Ross Novgrad Jazz Trio.

There will also be French-inspired hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, and docents will be available to answer questions in the galleries.

Admission is free for members of the Springfield Museums and \$5 for non-members. Tickets will be sold in the Museum

Welcome Center, which is connected to the Science Museum. Guests will also have the option of viewing the special exhibition "Old Masters to Monet: Three Centuries of French Painting from the Wadsworth Atheneum" at the discounted rate of \$5.

The event is for people over 21. Both members and nonmembers are encouraged to make advance reservations through springfieldmuseums.org or by phone at (413) 263-6800, ext. 266.

The D'Amour Museum is located at the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. in downtown Springfield. Free, secure onsite parking is available. For more information about Culture & Cocktails, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 379.

News and events at the Italian Cultural Center

SPRINGFIELD - Are you an Italian-American who wants to get back in touch with your Italian heritage or someone who simply enjoys the Italian culture and way of life? The Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc., a growing, vibrant organization that embraces and promotes the Italian culture in all its forms, is currently accepting new membership applications. The club offers Italian language classes for adults and children, periodic dinners with great Italian food, Italian heritage celebrations, cooking classes, a library, assistance in learning more about your own Italian genealogy, and more. The center is located at 56 Margaret St. in Springfield's South End. For more information, call the ICC at (413) 784-1492 or email at ICCW@comcast.net. The Italian Cultural Center is sponsoring a gnocchi-making class on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 1-3 p.m. An instructor, supplies and space will be provided for adults and children. Just bring an apron and take home what you make. Space is limited. Seats will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Register and pre-pay by Feb. 4 by mailing your name, address and phone number along with the registration fee of \$20 for ICC members, \$25 per adult non-member, \$8 for children of members and \$12 for children of non-members to Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts, Inc., Attn: Gnocchi-Making, 56 Margaret St., Springfield, MA

01105. For more information, call Rose Costa at (413) 786-3205.

The ICC will host a chicken cacciatore dinner on Friday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. Only 100 tickets will be sold; they must be purchased in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets, which are on sale now, are \$15 for ICC members, \$18 for non-members and are available by calling Rose Costa at (413) 786-3205.

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